

Abstract

A digital system and method of operation is provided in which several processing resources (340) and processors (350) are connected to a shared translation lookaside buffer (TLB) (300, 310(n)) of a memory management unit (MMU) and thereby access memory and devices. These resources can be instruction processors, coprocessors, DMA devices, etc. Each entry location in the TLB is filled during the normal course of action by a set of translated address entries (308, 309) along with qualifier fields (301, 302, 303) that are incorporated with each entry. Operations can be performed on the TLB that are qualified by the various qualifier fields. A command (360) is sent by an MMU manager to the control circuitry of the TLB (320) during the course of operation. Commands are sent as needed to flush (invalidate), lock or unlock selected entries within the TLB. Each entry in the TLB is accessed (362, 368) and the qualifier field specified by the operation command is evaluated (364). This can be task ID field 302, resource ID field 301, shared indicator 303, or combinations of these. Operation commands can also specify a selected virtual address entry (305). Each TLB entry is modified in response to the command (366) only if its qualifier field(s) match the qualifier(s) specified by the operation command.